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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STOCKTON MAN CONVICTED AT TRIAL OF IMPERSONATING A DEA AGENT;**  
**SECOND MAN INDICTED FOR IMPERSONATING A DEA**  
**AGENT AND LYING TO INVESTIGATORS**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that RICARDO SIMENTAL, 43, of Stockton was convicted today of three counts of impersonating a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agent and a DEA attorney. The guilty verdict was returned by a federal court jury in Sacramento after a three-day trial before United States District Judge Edward J. Garcia.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the Stockton Police Department and the DEA.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Carolyn Delaney and Christine Watson, who are prosecuting the case, the evidence introduced at trial showed that SIMENTAL represented himself to numerous people as a DEA agent and a DEA attorney, even going so far as to give a speech at the local Rotary Club touting his alleged non-profit organization for at-risk children. The evidence presented to the jury, however, proved that SIMENTAL has never been employed by the DEA, nor was his organization "non-profit."

The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Garcia on May 26, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

In the second case, JOHN D. COHEN, 45, of Manteca, was indicted today by a Sacramento federal grand jury for impersonating a DEA agent on February 27, 2006. According to court records, on that date COHEN entered the federal courthouse in Sacramento and showed what appeared to be a DEA badge to a court security officer. Unbeknownst to COHEN, the security officer was a retired DEA agent who found COHEN's behavior suspicious and called real DEA agents to investigate. The indictment also alleges that COHEN made false statements to those DEA agents when interviewed later that day about the incident.

According to Assistant United States Attorney, Carolyn K. Delaney, who is prosecuting the case, if convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for the offense of Impersonating a Federal Officer is three years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, and one year of supervised release. The maximum penalty for Making a False Statement is five years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, and three years of supervised release.

"These cases underscore the serious nature of impersonating a federal agent. We place great trust in those wearing the uniform whether in federal, state, or local law enforcement," stated United States Attorney Scott.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt

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